

INDIANA OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION (IOSHA)

INTRODUCTION

This document provides general information about the **Indiana Occupational Safety and Health Administration (IOSHA)**. This information is provided for educational purposes only.

The Oral Health Program (OHP) at the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) cannot provide legal opinions on the interpretation of guidelines, laws, and rules and regulations. Dental professionals are responsible for understanding and applying these as they pertain to the practice of dentistry in Indiana.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The United States Department of Labor contains the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). The mission of OSHA is *to assure safe and healthful working conditions for working men and women by setting and enforcing standards and by providing training, outreach, education and assistance*. OSHA encourages States to develop and operate their own job safety and health programs.

Indiana is one of several states operating a complete state plan, which is administered by IOSHA in the Indiana Department of Labor. *IOSHA is dedicated to ensuring Hoosier workplace safety and health*. These regulations and standards apply to all places of employment in Indiana.

Some of these regulations and standards apply to blood borne pathogens. Please refer to *Regulations (Standards – 29 CFR), Part 1910 Occupational Safety and Health Standards, 1910 Subpart Z – Toxic and Hazardous Substances, 1910.1030 – Blood borne pathogens*.

OSHA:

- requires employers to provide **annual training** in blood borne pathogens to its employees:
 - on working time, and
 - at no cost to the employee;
- requires employers to provide **personal protective equipment** to its employees:
 - at no cost, and
 - maintain protective garments at no cost to the employee;
- accepts **complaints** from employees:
 - which are written,
 - which are confidential, and
 - which do not allow the employer to retaliate against or terminate an employee for filing a complaint; and
- may make **unannounced on-site visits**; and
- can issue **monetary fines** for non-compliance.

SUMMARY: Many of the guidelines provided by the CDC for infection control are incorporated into the blood borne pathogens standards established by OSHA and used by IOSHA.

SPORE TESTING

- Universal Precautions (410 IAC 1-4) **requires spore testing of heat sterilizers**
 - IOSHA/OSHA do not mention spore testing, but it is still **required** in Indiana
 - CDC recommends spore testing

COMPLAINTS

Complaints by *current employees* alleging violations of IOHSA regulations and standards should be submitted to the IOHSA section of the Indiana Department of Labor. The OHP at the ISDH does not accept complaints of this nature and will refer all such complaints to IOSHA.